

REPRESENTATIVE TERESE BERCEAU

PRESS RELEASE



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BERCEAU VOTES AGAINST FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE TAX “RELIEF” PLAN

MADISON – Representative Terese Berceau (D – Madison) issued the following statement today following passage of October Special Session Senate Bill 1, which spends \$100 million to reduce the property tax increase Republicans included in their recent state budget:

“This wasn’t tax relief – it was a cynical campaign gimmick. The governor proposed it just days after a legitimate Democratic candidate announced she was running against him, and expected both houses of the legislature to pass it in less than a week. So much for engaging in honest deliberation and honoring the democratic process.

“Even after this political move, overall property taxes will still be \$276 million higher in 2014 than they were in 2012. Under the Republican bill, many property owners and most renters won’t get any tax relief at all.

“It’s too small to stimulate much economic activity or create many jobs. Worst of all, it’s extremely fiscally irresponsible. Our cash reserves are among the lowest in the entire country. The current Republican budget spends hundreds of millions more than it takes in. The governor’s property tax plan helps to increase the state’s structural deficit by 33%, to \$725 million.

“The Republicans claim the state has a surplus but conveniently ignore that their budget increased borrowing by over \$2 billion. It’s pretty simple. If you have to borrow money to “balance” your budget, your budget isn’t really balanced.”

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